

## CHAPTER 12

### SECTION 7.4

# TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM (TOP) - PRIME AND STATUS CHANGES

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#### I. POLICY

A. Generally, when the TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility status changes, eligibility for TRICARE Overseas Program Prime benefits also changes. The time frames for TOP Prime eligibility are similar to TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility.

B. In all cases, when TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility ends, including dependent children who lose eligibility due to age, etc. or when permanent departure by a TOP Prime eligible from OCONUS occurs, eligibility for TRICARE Overseas Program Prime ceases.

#### II. POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

A. When a TOP enrollee has a change in status, verified on DEERS, and fails to notify the TOP MTF Commander or Lead Agent, but submits claims for health services, in other than the transient period outlined in [Chapter 12, Section 7.3](#), the contractor will process the claim following existing TOP standard cost sharing provisions. The contractor will send a copy of the claim and EOB to the appropriate TOP Lead Agent. The TOP Lead Agent, or designee, is responsible for disenrollment of the beneficiary from TOP Prime (as of the date of his/her change in status) and for advising the beneficiary of his/her status change and options for reenrollment.

B. For active duty family members, single enrollment can be changed to family at any time during the TOP enrollment period. A new TOP enrollment period shall be established for the family.

C. In cases of a change from single status to family based on the birth of a child or adoption, the new family member of the TOP Prime enrollee will be considered enrolled as of the day of birth or adoption and given up to 120 days to decide whether to continue TOP Prime or disenroll the child.

D. TOP enrollees may disenroll in TOP Prime at any time if the enrollee is moving out of OCONUS, or if the enrollee requests voluntary disenrollment during the anniversary date. All other voluntary disenrollments require approval of the MTF Commander or Lead Agent. If approval is not granted, the enrollee may appeal the decision to the Lead Agent.

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